

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 081129Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9548

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1400

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, ENRG, EFIS, UR, IC, UK, FO, DA, NO

SUBJECT: LOS: DELIMITATION OF NORWEGIAN OFF-SHORE BOUNDARIES

REF: OSLO 5283

1. BARENTS SEA BOUNDARY. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND TOLD AMBASSADOR AT APRIL 4 LUNCHEON THAT NORWAY WOULD BE APPROACHING USSR SOON TO SUGGEST RESUMPTION THIS SPRING OF NEGOTIATIONS TO DELIMIT NORWEGIAN-SOVIET CONTINENTAL SHELF, BUT HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE UNTIL LATER IN YEAR.

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2. KJELL ELIASSEN, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS

IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, HAS INFORMED E/C COUNSELOR THAT SOVIETS APPARENTLY BELIEVE TIME IS WORKING IN THEIR FAVOR. NORWEGIAN EMBASSY IN VIENNA HAS REPORTED REMARK TO THIS EFFECT BY KHLESTOV, HEAD OF SOVIET MBFR DELEGATION AND CHIEF OF MFA TREATY AND LEGAL DIVISION. KHLESTOV'S REASONING, WITH WHICH ELIASSEN AGREED, IS THAT THE LOS CONFERENCE IS LIKELY TO BROADEN THE "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES" PROVISION OF THE 1958 CONTINENTAL SHELF CONVENTION TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE MEDIAN LINE PRINCIPLE CLAIMED BY THE NORWEGIANS. FOR THIS REASON, AND BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THE SOVIETS ARE INCREASINGLY ADOPTING A "MARE NOSTRUM" ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BARENTS SEA, ELIASSEN HOPES HE CAN INVITE THE SOVIETS TO OSLO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS ALONG. HOWEVER, HE IS ALSO NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THE SOVIETS WILL AGREE TO EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, PARTICULARLY IF ANOTHER LOS CONFERENCE SESSION IS SCHEDULE FOR EARLY 1976.

3. ELIASSEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SOVIETS WILL EXPECT SOME CONCESSIONS WHEN THEY COME TO OSLO. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO INVITE THEM TO OSLO MERELY TO REPEAT THE SAME POSITION NORWAY ADVANCED IN MOSCOW IN NOVEMBER 1974. THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE CONCESSION HE COULD ENVISAGE AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, WOULD BE SLIGHT REDRAWING OF BASE LINES WHICH COULD RESULT IN MEDIAN LINE MORE FAVORABLE TO THE USSR. HE CONCEDED THAT SUCH A MODEST STEP WAS UNLIKELY TO ADVANCE MATTERS GREATLY.

4. U.K.-NORWEGIAN BOUNDARY. ELIASSEN CONFIRMED THAT NORWEGIAN AND BRITISH CARTOGRAPHERS WERE WORKING ON FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' MEDIAN LINE BOUNDARY BETWEEN 61 DEGREES 45 MINUTES AND 62 DEGREES. THIS SEGMENT OF THE BOUNDARY HAS NOT YET BEEN AGREED UPON. SINCE THE BOUNDARY NORTH OF 62 DEGREES HAS ALSO NOT BEEN DELIMITED, THE CARTOGRAPHERS WOULD PROBABLY ALSO WORK OUT THE LOCATION OF THE BOUNDARY NORTH OF 62 DEGREES TO THE TRI-POINT WHERE THE MEDIAN LINE BETWEEN THE FAEROE ISLANDS AND THE U.K. INTERSECTED THE NORWEGIAN-U.K. MEDIAN LINE. HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT AN EFFORT

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TO REACH FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE BOUNDARY NORTH OF 62 DEGREES WOULD BE MADE AT THIS TIME AND COMMENTED THAT THE WATER IS QUITE DEEP IN THAT AREA AND THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE TRI-POINT MUST BE SETTLED.

5. NORWEGIAN-ICELANDIC BOUNDARY -- ELIASSEN SAID THAT NORWAY HAS RECEIVED NO OVERTURES FROM ICELAND REGARDING NEGOTIATING THAT BOUNDARY. HOWEVER, HE HAD HEARD THAT

ICELAND MIGHT CLAIM THAT JAN MAYEN WAS A SMALL UNINHABITED ISLAND AND SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DRAWING THE BOUNDARY LINE. HE DISAGREED WITH THIS CONTENTION AND SAID THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR NORWAY TO ACCEPT IT. HE ANTICIPATED THAT ICELAND WOULD ASK FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BOUNDARY FOLLOWING ONCLUSION OF THE GENEVA LOS CONFERENCE TO PREPARE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A 200-MILE ICELANDIC FISHING ZONE.
BYRNE

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